Electric Cooperatives: Who We Are

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Electric Cooperatives: Who We Are

- At-cost electric service
- Locally governed
- Return excess revenue
- Community builders

Electric cooperatives are community-focused organizations that work to efficiently deliver affordable and reliable electricity to consumer-members of the co-op. They operate for the benefit of people, not investors.

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Nearly 900 electric co-ops serve 1 in 8 U.S. residents in rural and exurban communities alike

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Electric cooperatives serve 92% of America’s persistent poverty counties

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Electric Cooperatives: Who We Are

Over 100 electric co-ops are providing broadband service to their members

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Electricity is first generated by a power source and delivered over high-voltage transmission lines, often by generation and transmission cooperatives. Then voltage is reduced for delivery by distribution cooperatives to homes, businesses and farms.
Electric Cooperative Electricity Basics

**Retail Fuel Mix 2009**
- 12% Renewables
- 17% Nuclear
- 12% Natural Gas
- 58% Coal
- 1% Oil, Other & Unknown

**Retail Fuel Mix 2018**
- 27% Natural Gas
- 15% Nuclear
- 17% Renewables
- 2% Oil, Other & Unknown
- 39% Coal

Source: NRECA Research

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Policy Issues

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Electric Cooperative Policy Issues

- Energy policy
- Environment
- Critical infrastructure
- Grid resilience

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Electric Cooperative Policy Issues

- Rural development
- Telecom/broadband
- Employee/retiree benefits
- Tax policy
Renewable energy

More than 95% of electric co-ops provide renewable energy to their consumer-members, including a more than tenfold increase in solar energy since 2013.
Electric Cooperative Innovation

Distributed energy resources

Co-ops are implementing microgrids, community solar, battery storage and other distributed energy programs that make economic sense for their members.

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Electric Cooperative Innovation

Energy efficiency

Energy conservation and efficiency improvements reduce the need for electricity infrastructure and lower the cost of energy to consumer-members.
Electric co-ops are a vital part of the solution to bridge the digital divide and modernize rural communities.
Beneficial electrification

Electrifying the economy provides far-reaching economic and environmental benefits. Co-ops are leading the transition to beneficial electrification.
Electric Cooperatives
Empowering Communities Worldwide

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NRECA International

Powering communities and hope by creating 250 rural utilities across the globe.

Serving 160 million people in 43 countries

4x the number of U.S. rural co-op connections.

300 U.S. electric cooperatives are empowering international communities with passion and concern for community.

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Electric Cooperative Policy Resources

- Experts on energy, technology, markets and rural development
- Fact sheets on policy issues
- White papers on energy, broadband and rural development
Electric Cooperative Policy Resources

Data on nearly 900 electric cooperatives in 48 states

Reports on cooperative economic benefits = $88 billion to U.S. GDP.

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